



Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

www.churchwomenunited-madison.net

C.W.U. Newsletter November, 2017 No. 4

December Forum
Friday, December 1, 2017
Christmas Tea & Silent
Auction Fundraiser
Madison Ecumenical Choir
10:00 am Christmas Tea and Carol Sing
Memorial United Church of Christ
5705 Lacy Road, Fitchburg

December Forum

On the first day of December, fum, fum, fum, we will gather at Memorial United Church of Christ, 5705 Lacy Road, Fitchburg, to ring in the festive month of December. We will begin at 10 am with tea and carol singing, and our own women's ecumenical choir will add special music of the season. We will also be conducting a silent auction as a fundraiser for our CWU-Madison unit.

And what will we auction? What you bring as your contribution to the fun. An item, with a sheet of paper with the item heading, for people to offer bids. There are lots of choices of what item to bring. Potential Christmas gifts, and they can range from small objects either Christmasy or useful, baked goods, a basket of goodies, art, that unused gift that doesn't fit your decor. The range is quite large.

This fundraiser should be a lot of fun, and we will make merry with tea and crumpets while initiating the season of carol singing. This will also be a fun event to invite fellow church members or friends to come to a CWU meeting as well as to enjoy our fellowship as members of this ecumenical movement.

November Celebration

"Kindling New Fires for Peace" was the theme for 2017 World Community Day. We met at Covenant Presbyterian, hosted by Grace Episcopal Church, whose outreach committee of their More Just Community Committee presented the program. This was an incredibly moving and meaningful worship service.

Nabu Mukasa's prelude solo, How Can I Keep From Singing, set the tone. We all sang Let There Be Peace on Earth, and after welcome and prayer, singer Erica Serlin of Temple Beth El, sang a Hebrew prayer, Eili, Eili, written by a woman who lost her life saving Jews from the holocaust. Two excellent speakers followed. Abha Thakkar, a Madison leader, spoke of Building Community: Locally & Internationally. Marwa Rawy, a PhD student from Egypt, addressed Through a Muslim Lens. Looking at Madison through their eyes was both inspiring and frustrating.

Then Grace Episcopal Church presented Building Community 2017 awards to Vanessa McDowell, Madison leader, CEO of the Madison YWCA (July 2017), the first African American in that position, and to Tsetsan Atruksang, Madison leader, President (2013-September 2017) of the Tibetan Community of Wisconsin. The YWCA has provided help and living space for hundreds of women over the years who have had no other place to turn. The Tibetan community in Madison has thrived.

Another solo, My Grateful Spirit Sings, blessed us, and everyone sang Pass It On to close our celebration. This event was such a blessing, so meaningful, so encompassing, an incentive to attend our CWU celebrations.

"World Community Day began in 1943 with a purpose dedicated to the cause of peace. Following the war and new world order, the peace theme was widely promoted among churches. Denominational

leaders felt the need for unity, and set a day aside for shared ecumenical study and prayer.

“Today, we are part of a larger global community made even more accessible by technology. The digital age has changed how we communicate and relate to one another. . . . As people of faith, we have an increased ability to reach beyond Christian denominations to brothers and sisters who are Muslim, Buddhist, Jewish, and many others. It is a move from an ecumenical to a multi-faith orientation. This, then, is the focus of World Community Day 2017. Let us, through mutual respect, create an inclusive community that is just, caring, and supportive within this new paradigm. In this transformational time, let us courageously kindle new fires toward peace.”

The printed program from national contained much meaning and beauty, and here is just a taste of that.

Reading of the Golden Rule from Major World Religions:

- Buddhism—Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.
- Baha’i—Blessed are those who prefer others before themselves.
- Sikhism—Be not estranged from another for God dwells in every heart.
- Jainism—Regard all creatures as you would your own self.
- Zoroastrianism—Human nature is good only when it does not do unto another whatever is not good for its own self.
- Judaism—What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor.
- Christianity—Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

May the light and love of World Community Day go with you, and continue to shine brightly in this community and throughout the world. And we all say, "Shalom, Namaste, Peace be to you."

Even our refreshments had an international theme. Iran welcomes with oranges, Indonesia with bananas, as did we.

The Beacon

The day shelter has opened, and there is a need for volunteers. Liz Gill reports that First Methodist furnished 5 meals the first week. These are served at noon, and more volunteer groups are needed for contributions. Catholic Charities runs the center, and the United Way is involved as well.

Attention all of you who receive the CWU Newsletter, We Need Your Help !

We are in the process of making the transition to e-mail for sending the newsletter to as many of you as possible, effective with the January 2018 newsletter. The reason we are making this transition is to save paying \$250 annually for a bulk mail permit.

We will send out via U.S. mail to those who do not have easy computer access and we are in the process of collecting the names of those who wish to continue having their newsletter sent by U.S. mail. Also we need to know if you would like to discontinue receiving the newsletter.

If you have computer access and have not given us your e-mail in the past 2 months, please do so ASAP. You can mail in the below slip of paper with your e-mail address or request to continue getting it via U.S. mail or to discontinue it altogether. Please mail the slip to Ruth Hein, 1001 Greenwich Drive, Madison WI 53711.

It would be helpful if you would be willing to share your phone number as we may want to contact you about the newsletter transition via phone or other CWU issues. Or if you prefer, you can phone Ruth Hein at 608-347-4724 and let her know your preference

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ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS & DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS FORM FOR CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF MADISON

Please Note: These contributions will be used for the general operating expenses of CWU of Madison, as well as for the Celebration materials, choir music, annual donations to selected community social services, and annual contribution to Church Women United of Wisconsin. GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES include, in part, the office rent, insurance, bulk mail permit and the cost of producing and mailing the CWU newsletter, and miscellaneous supplies need throughout the year.

Please send in contributions by November 30 of each year. Our financial year ends on December 31 of each year.

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Please make your check(s) payable to: Church Women of Madison and send to:
Marleen S. Lippert, Treasurer, CWU of Madison
6329 Scandia Lane
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Thank you for your financial assistance in carrying out the various projects of CWU.
Your contributions are sincerely appreciated.

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